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Two general Epistles

SENT IN

MANUSCRIPT

TO

Friends of truth,

BY

GEORGE FOX the younger,

And now

Printed for their further service.

LONDON,

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(13)

Two Epiſtles ſent in Manuſcript to Friends, &c.

The Servant of Jeſus Chriſt, and priſoner for the Word of God, ſendeth greeting unto the Flock of God who in this day ſuffer bonds and other tribulations and cruelties for the precious Truth, even for obeying the Goſpel of ſalvation, which is the Power of God.

OH ye beloved ones, who have valued the eternal Truth above your neareſt and deareſt Relations, Liberties, Eſtates & Lives, and have hazarded and given up all freely in the Cauſe of God, your reward is with you, which is free: Oh ye heirs of eternal life, ye babes of God, born of the Seed Royal, ye children of the promiſe, who are counted for the Seed, the glory and peace of God reſteth upon you, and the Arm of my Father is your ſtrength, the Lord our righteouſneſs is his Name, who is your ſtrong Tower, the place of your ſafety: Oh my beloved Friends, my bowels are filled with the ſtreams of Eternal life and love, which runneth forth freely unto you, who are highly favoured of God, who are counted worthy to ſuffer for his living eternal truth; bleſſed be you of the Lord my Saviour, happy are you ye children of the Moſt High; filled be your bowels with the ſprings of eternal life, and filled be your hearts and mouths with the high praiſes of *Emanuel*: Oh Friends, through faith in the blood of the Lamb do you ſtand, and in it ſhall you overcome and obtain the victory over the Beaſt, falſe Prophet and Dragon,

gon, whose hour this is in the power of darkness, which is given to them for a moment to try your precious Faith. Therefore my beloved ones, who know the clefts of the Rock, and the place where the King is found: O retire all thither, and solace your selves under the banner of his love, remove not away from the springs of his strength & virtue which he hath opened unto you, but dwel in his patience, and wait in his Light, in the pure stilness, til he arise and make his enemies his footstool. Oh Friends, you that cannot act contrary to the wil of *Emanuel*, you that cannot bow down to any other image but the Light of the glorious Gospel, which is the image of the invisible God; you that cannot cease from worshipping him in the spirit and truth; you that cannot cease petitioning him, and meeting together in his Name, notwithstanding the Decree of the Rulers, and the raging of the wicked, I feel you in *Daniels* spirit, and enjoy you in that power which stoppeth the mouths of the Lyons; you whose bodies are cast into Prisons, Dungeons and Holes; you who are numbred with transgressors, and are separated from your outward Relations; you who have given up your Estates and Lives and all, or are freely willing so to do, if you be called to it; I know the Lord my God is not wanting to you, I know you are filled with his pure peace, power and presence; I know you have all, and enjoy all that the Lord seeth to be good for you, even as I your brother do, who suffereth with you; and thus we receive an hundred fold, even in this time with persecution, and eternal life in the World to come is ours; faint not: Oh my Brethren and Sisters, in the overcomings of the Power, Love, Virtue, Mercy and Joy of our God which filleth my Vessel, do I salute you all, and am near unto you in the spirit of love, rejoicing to hear of your faithfulness and courage: Ah my amiable ones, multiplied be your faith and strength in the power of the eternal God, for we are not yet come to the depth of our tryals.

Verily it is but a remnant that wil follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth: Oh ye Virgins who defile not your selves with the weaker things, but are washed and pure in the chast life

life of the Lamb, and redeemed from the earth by his power, his righteousnes is your garment; yea his spirit is your covering, his eye is upon you for good, though the Whore may yet a little while prevail against your bodies, though she may yet drink some more blood, yet be not dismayed, seeing you know that by which victory shall be obtained; and all these things shall work together for good to you that love the Lord, and not your lives unto the death. Oh ye Babes of God, this day have I long waited and looked for, & of it have I been made to prophesie, and in the Faith, Word and Power of God I further testifie, that this day must yet be hotter (for a little space) that no dross may remain among the pure gold, of which the Jewels are to be made up; but my Friends, the Lord our King in whom we have trusted, he shall arise and work such wonders in the earth, (even in this age) as shall astonish and amaze the Heathen, and cause the ears of many that shall hear thereof to tingle, and mens hearts shall fail them because of those things that they shall behold; but as for you who know the word of eternal life, hold that fast, and look ye not out, nor back (remember *Lots* Wife) neither let in fears, but watch and wait in the eternal counsel of my Father, and he wil minister strength proportionable to every ones trial, and be a safe hiding-place to the meek.

And all you whom the Lord *God* hath touched with his living Power, and visited with his eternal truth, and counted worthy, and hath begotten you into the knowledge of his truth in any measure, and brought you to believe in the same (though you be yet out of bonds) know this my Friends, that this is a day wherein *God* wil try your faith and love which you have professed in, and to him; yea, this is a day wherein a mighty storm is arisen, which wil shake down the unsound, and the untimely fruit, that so the sound which partakes of the sap and virtue of the tree, may be clearly made manifest; yea this is a day in which the good Husbandman wil separate the seed from the chaff, which he wil scatter by his searching winds, therefore I beseech you all (who have any true love unto *God*, and the way of his holiness) keep close to the measure of his invisible Life & Power in your own vessels, that so you may retain strength, and be made able to stand witnesses

for

for his Name; and I exhort and warn you all, that you suffer not your minds to be entangled or encumbered with the cares of this life, lest thereby the enemy get advantage against you, and so you lose your strength. Oh take heed of the Enemies temptations, if he come unto you, and offer you the things of this life, that may seem pleasing to the creature, and tell you that you shall enjoy them if you wil bow unto him, consent not to him, for if you cannot enjoy them and the presence and love of God, let them all go, and murmure not, deny not the Lord, let not the fear of the loss of any visible thing cause you to act contrary to that which God hath made manifest unto you. Let not your lives be dear unto you for the cause of God. Oh Friends, this is a day wherein God wil try who they are that love any changeable thing more then himself, or who they be that wil defile their consciences, and deny his Witness therein, to save their estates, liberties and lives, and verily they that shall so do, heavy plagues, vengeance and judgements shall fall upon them, and that suddenly, the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it: But joy, peace and glory everlastingly shal rest upon them that stand stedfast in the Faith received from God. Therefore dear Hearts, be faithful unto death, and ye shall receive the crown of Life. And all you my Friends who have of this Worlds goods, let the love of God stil abound in you, and then you wil be constrained by it to refresh your poor brethren and sisters that stand in need this day, and thereby you may take away the cause of some temptations which otherwise might fall upon them. And oh my Friends, I know the love and care of many of you hath been, and yet is exceeding large in this particular, even so let it be stil continued, and the Lord shall be glorified and honored thereby, and he wil be your exceeding great reward.

O Lord my God, thou hast filled my bowels with thy eternal power, thou hast filled my heart with gladness, and my mouth with praises beyond all utterance; also thy peace and thy glory resteth upon me; thou hast mightily filled me with words and boldness; yea, thou hast set me above the fears of death; thou hast caused me to be content with whatsoever thou hast suffered

to come upon me; and thou knoweſt I neither fear impriſonment, baniſhment, death, or any other cruelty that is poſſible for man to inflict upon my body; thou knoweſt I neither regard their threatnings, nor the flatteries of the wicked, for my truſt is alone in thee, and thou art my ſtrength and my glory; thou haſt made me to be content to be even what ever thou wouldſt have me: Thou knoweſt I ſeek nothing but thy honor alone; therefore wilt thou honor me before the people, according to thy Word.

And now O Lord my God, I beſeech thee keep thy people in this day of tryal and hour of temptation, keep them above the earth, and out of the flatteries of a deceitful tongue, and keep them in contentedneſs with thy pure will in all things: Fill them with boldneſs and valour for thy Name and Truth, that ſo they may be careful for nothing, but to anſwer thy holy requirings; that thou mayeſt have the honor and glory of all, and that thou mayeſt exalt thy truth, and them in it over all.

Then ſhall praiſes break forth and be multiplyed unto thee, oh thou King of Saints, oh thou everlaſting Fountain of endleſs life, who is able to expreſs thy mighty and ſtrange acts which thou art doing, and about to do: Oh keep thy people I beſeech thee, faithful in their particular meaſures and places; oh that they may underſtand thy outgoings in every thing, ſo ſhall not thy work in any be condemned.

From the Gate-Houſe *Palace-yard*,
Weſtminſt. the 17*th* of the
11*th*.month 1660.

George Fox the younger.

THE

A *Second* Epiſtle *to* *Friends*, &c.

Friends,

AS for you who are ſufferers this day upon the account of truth, whether in bonds, or out of them, I know and am ſatisfied that many of you have not need that any man teach you, becauſe you are not onely brought to the knowledge of the Anointing, but it abideth in you, and your delight is wholly to obey the ſame, and whatſoever it Commandeth you it is your Meat and Drink to do it, becauſe you are born of him from whence it comes, and he dwelleth in you, and you in him, & you know his voice, and are in a Readineſs to obey the ſame; and *I* know ye are taught of him what he requireth of you, ſo you that are come to this ſtate, I know words as to your own particular add but litle, becauſe you injoy the end of them: Yet *I* know when any thing proceeds from the ſame word and Fountain of Life of which you partake, feed, and drink, that may be of ſervice to others that are not come to ſo high a State, that profeſs the ſame truth, or deſire the knowledge of it, you can with joy, hear the ſame, and are refreſhed; becauſe thereby the work of the Lord which you delight in is carried on: Therefore that which is upon me in the Fear, Power, and Life of God, I ſhall write, and ſend amongſt you that profeſs the truth, as it is in Jeſus, that it may reach to you to whom it is of ſervice, that where the witneſs of *God* is owned, it may ariſe and make manifeſt to each particular, what of that which is here written belongeth unto them.

Friends, you who are imprisoned for the teſtimony of truth, happie are you that are faithful in your Teſtimony for the Lord: Now this know, that it is them that ſuffer according to the will of *God*, and Continue in pure obedience thereunto, which are acceptable unto him (by Jeſus Chriſt) in their Teſtimony: Therefore let the pure dread of the Almighty be lived in, and let there be a ſure watch (kept by every particular) in the Light, leaſt any thing

thing (through the temptation of the Enemy) get up in any of you that is contrary to the Lords pure Light, and you joyn to it, and thereby you, and your Teſtimony come to be defiled, and the Lord diſhonoured, And Friends, this know, that there are many temptations which oft-times accompany thoſe that are in bonds for the truth, which are to be watched againſt in the pure Light which makes them manifeſt, or elſe there is a great danger. Now it is upon me to ſpeak ſomething concerning ſome of them, that you may watch againſt them as your deadly Enemies, (mark) as there is a true joy that ſprings in thoſe that in the true ſimplicity, do ſuffer for the cauſe of God, ſo alſo there is this temptation that ſometimes may be preſented to ſome in bonds, (mark) even to think highly of themſelves, becauſe they are put in priſon for the truth, ye even to think of themſelves (becauſe of their ſufferings) above what they are. Now where this temptation is joyned to, it puffeth ſuch up in the fleſhly falſe joy, and leads out of the fear above the Croſs, and ſo becomes very dangerous unto them, and ſuch become very burdenſome to them that abide in the truth, and ſuffer according to the will of God, therefore where any hath ſuch a temptation, Oh watch againſt it that it prevail not; and where any are ſenſible that ſuch a temptation hath prevailed, let ſuch ſink down to the pure judgement of the Lord, and wait therein, til through faith and patience, victory be obtained. And Friends, let the fear and the mighty dread of the Lord God be upon you in receiving of the Creatures, or elſe the ſimplicity in you may ſoon be betrayed. Oh there is a great danger concerning thoſe things, if the pure life which is more then meat, be not continually lived in. Many whoſe hearts are open, not knowing what you (who are in bonds) may want, may bring and offer you much, and ſome may urge things upon you; therefore you had need to ſtand in the pure fear, wiſdom and authority of God (in the ſelf-denial) or elſe thoſe things may ſoon become a ſnare unto you, and ſo fleſhly liberty and eaſe may be Run into, and may grow upon you, whereby the true ſavor and feeling of the living truth may be loſt; therefore keep low and watchful, that ſo you may be preſerved ſincere to the Lord in his authority ſtanding out of, and denying all ſuperfluity; And you who have but little of this

worlds goods, who are in sufferings, and do rather want then abound. Oh Friends, commit your cause to God, and let not the enemie on the other hand prevaile in tempting you to look out, or to distrust, and thereby cast you down, and bring your precious life under, but in the Faith and Patience of the Lamb abide, doing the things that is lawful and aright in the sight of God, and he will assuredly provide for you: Oh do not in any wise do evil, that good may come thereof; the woe will be upon them that keep you from providing for your families, and they in the day of Gods judgments (which hasteth) will be found and counted worse then infidels, and not you, who are willing to labour for your families, if you could have your liberty without sinning against the Lord; and all Friends be watchful one over another, in the true love which thinks no evil, and live in it, and bear one with another, and be subject to the power in one another, and that will bring you to know how to abound, and how to suffer want; and it will constrain you to be helpful one to another, both in and out of bonds; yea it will bring you into contentedness in every condition. Oh dear hearts: I know there are many of you that are out of Prison, whose sufferings this day are as great, and some far greater then those that are in, but well wil it be with you, who are faithful and obedient in your places and measures, whether in bonds, or out; and ill will it be with the unfaithful, and disobedient where ever they be; therefore keep to the Lords living eternal power, that you may be carried through all your tryals within, and without, in your several places. For my Friends, the day will yet be very hot, yea it must so be, that that which can abide the fire, may be made manifest clearly, and remain in its purity, and that the dross which hath been mixed with the pure, may also be separated from it, and be made manifest to be but dross; and you that are in bonds, take heed of looking out, at time, or place, or at the cruelty of the Enemie; poor hearts, I know some of you suffer exceeding much hardship this day in your Testimony for the Lord; yet I know the presence of my Father is freely with you, who in the innocency, and simplicity of your hearts, gives up to his pure will in all things. Oh Friends, take heed that none of you yeild to uphold any wicked Custome, or oppression; which many of you may be tempted to in

Prisons,

Prisons, & may suffer much for denying them, but better is it so to do, then to offend the Lord, who is the reward of the faithful: Oh Friends, this is a day the Lord hath mightily discovered the Beast, his Power, Names, and horns; And this is a day wherein the Lord is Calling, and Leading his People to bear a clear Testimony against all those things; Therefore take heed to your selves, that you give not your Power to the Beast, by bowing to any of his Names. Fear not his Horns, Receive not his Mark; though he suffer you not to buy, nor sell. Oh Friends watch, for you will be tempted, and all both bond & free, whose Names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life, will be compelled, and all that follow the Lamb this day must come through great tribulation, for he is opposing the Beast, and breaking through his Power, Horns, Names, and Markes; And behold there is great Power and authority given to the Beast; that he may try the Inhabitants of the Earth; and that the Virgins that follow the Lamb, who love not their Lives to the death, may be clearly made manifest; and separated from all the dirtie professors of his Name, that will bow and fall under the power of the Beast, to save themselves; and say in their hearts, who is able to make war with them; and verily great will be the number of such; Therfore dear hearts stand stedfast, and watch unto prayer, and wait in the power that is endless, that your understandings may be kept open and clear, that you may see all the snares of the Enemie, and that you may feel Power to resist in the time of need: For my Friends this know, that those that start not a side but followeth the Lamb whithersoever he goeth, many of them have greater things to pass through, and to suffer, then an inprisonment; Therefore wait that you may be prepared for whatsoever the Lord may suffer to come upon you, for the tryal of your faith: Oh take heed of Dirty ingagements, Bonds, or Tyes; better were it for you that have Estates to loose them, or for you or others to suffer Imprisonment, Banishment, Death, or any other cruelty, (if the will of God be such as to give your adversaries so much power) then to bring your selves into bondage, who in any measure are made free by the Lord. Friends, the Children of the Promise are counted for the seed, and the seed royal is free, and is not to be compelled to any thing by man, but what it

 declares

declares to (and does among) the Sons of Men to stand (and to be done) in its own freedom and liberty, and this seed cannot beg its freedom and liberty of any mortal, nor never did, neither can it, nor give its power to the Beast, but through suffering it breaks down, and through the Beasts compelling power, and so by its own power in the Father it conquereth its Enemies, and works it self into the dominion over all, & all power must bow down to it, and serve and obey it; therefore all you that know the truth, (the seed Royal) feele his power that Redeems out of all Earthly things, that so you may be willing to suffer for him, with whom ye desire to reign, and be willing to bear the Cross, and despise the shame; Then shall you obtain the Crown which is immortal; but whosoever draws back, my soule shall have no pleasure in him, saith the Lord God, Therefore my Friends stand out of all mortals, in the immortal seed, and consent not, neither bow to, or joyn to (or do) any thing that the Life of the seed drawes or leads not to (what ever you may see others) (whom you have esteemed to be before you in the truth Consent to) yet do nothing (to save your selves) by imitation without feeling the Life to lead you: but wherennto every one of you hath attained, in the knowledge of the life of God, walk you by the same rule, and minde the same thing, knowing this, that there are first, that shall be last, and there are last, that shall be first; so the Lord God keepe you in his authority, Life and Wisdom to the end, Amen.

I am your endeared Friend in the power of the Righteousnes of the Lamb, in which I war against his Enemies, & not with carnal weapons; therefore I fear not man, whose heart is filled with cruelty, neither am I dismayed at the power of those that seek my Life, for it is in the hands of him that pleads my cause (who will set up his own Kingdom, and establish it in Righteousnes, and destroy them that will not serve and obey him,) let him do what he pleaseth with it: Glory to him in the highest; Halelujah.

George Fox *the younger*.

From the Pallace-yard Gate-house 30*th* 11*th* Month 1660.